

Austin Transportation Department
P.O. Box 1088
Austin, TX 78767

September 14, 2017

To Stakeholder, Property Owner, or Resident:

The Austin Transportation Department (ATD) is conducting a public engagement process for proposed improvements on Berkman Drive from 51st Street to US 290. Funding in the amount of \$60,000 has been identified by the Austin City Council District 4 to make near term improvements on this segment of Berkman Drive. Additional funding from the 2016 Mobility Bond Safe Routes to School and Bikeways Local Mobility Programs is also contributing to this project. This is a notice of an upcoming public meeting to share proposed solutions based on community feedback gathered from two previous meetings, April 18th and June 30th of 2016.

Recientemente el departamento de transporte de la ciudad de Austin realizó una reunión para solicitar comentarios acerca de varias calles donde existen oportunidades a corto plazo para mejoras de seguridad y movilidad, incluyendo Berkman Drive desde 51st Street hasta US 290. Usted está recibiendo esta notificación porque vive cerca de Berkman Drive, es dueño de propiedad cerca de Berkman Drive, o es parte interesada de Berkman Drive en Austin, Texas. Si necesita un documento traducido en español, llame a (512) 974-7092.

Figure 1 – Existing Conditions on Berkman Drive at Briarcliff Boulevard



The following is a high level summary of feedback from the first and second public meetings for Berkman Drive as well as feedback provided by residents of Windsor Park to the District 4 Council Office:

- Berkman is very busy during the morning and afternoon peak periods
- There are backups and safety issues due to heavy left turns at certain intersections and locations including Greenbrook Parkway, Rogge Lane, Ridgehaven Drive, Briarcliff Boulevard, Wheless Lane, and Patton Lane to US 290
- Drivers use the bike lane as a passing lane instead of waiting for people to make a left turn creating an unpredictable situation for all roadway users
- There are infrequent safe pedestrian crossings on Berkman Drive and desire for improvements at Greenbrook Parkway, Rogge Lane, near the Windsor Village retail area, Wheless Lane, and Patton Lane
- There are visibility issues caused by on-street parking at Broadmoor Drive
- There are issues with the southbound merge at the Berkman Drive and US 290 intersection

- The southbound bicycle lanes from Greenbrook Parkway to 51st Street are made uncomfortable by heavy motor vehicle volumes turning right onto 51st Street
- Conflicts with simultaneous left turns from Berkman Drive onto Wheless Drive (southern) and into the Memorial United Methodist Church parking lot
- Desire for calming traffic speeds on Berkman Drive

A detailed summary of public feedback received at the first public meeting is available online: <http://austintexas.gov/page/berkman-drive>.

The upcoming public meeting will include a specific proposal for changes to the street and will offer tools proposed at desired locations to address issues raised including, but not limited to, the following:

- Adding or extending turn lanes at high turn locations to address backups and safety issues
- Adding physical protection to the buffered bicycle lane to prevent darting around turning vehicles and to provide physical protection for people on bikes
- Improving pedestrian crossings with median refuge islands at Greenbrook Parkway, Broadmoor Drive, Ridgheaven Drive, Glenvalley Drive (Safe Routes to School), and Patton Lane; and a pedestrian hybrid beacon at Rogge Drive/Suffolk Lane (Safe Routes to School)
- Changing on-street parking to provide turn lanes and address visibility issues
- Driveway modifications for Memorial United Methodist Church to align with Wheless Lane

Figure 2 –



These tools have the potential to improve safety and mobility for all users of the street. Between 2010 and 2015, a total of 97 crashes, including one fatal crash, occurred on this segment of Berkman Drive involving five people walking, four people bicycling and 88 people in motor vehicles.

ATD is seeking feedback on current issues with Berkman Drive and the proposed solutions to address these issues from local residents and other users of this street. You can obtain additional information about this mobility project and provide

feedback at an open house on **Thursday, September 28th, 2017 in the gym of the Memorial United Methodist Church, 6100 Berkman Drive, Austin, Texas 78723 from 6-7pm.** Feedback based on local experience frequently results in stronger project proposals and we welcome your input.

If you cannot attend this open house and have questions or comments, please contact Jesse Duncan at (512) 974-7824 or Jesse.Duncan@austintexas.gov.

Sincerely,



Laura Dierenfield

Active Transportation and Street Design Division Manager

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The 2016 Mobility Bond dedicates \$20 million to bikeways and \$27.5 million to Safe Routes to School. Bikeway projects include separated and/or protected bicycle facilities, bicycle detection and signal equipment, and other on-street bicycle facilities, such as bike lanes. Bikeways funded through the bond program have a transportation and mobility purpose. Safe Routes to School For more information about the 2016 Mobility Bond, and/or the Bikeways investments, visit AustinTexas.gov/2016Bond.